

teaching of a polyhydric alcohol, but this is provided by the JP 61-260014 reference, which also discloses an adhesive preparation.

The Examiner asserts that the result of combining these references is a sheet-form adhesive preparation that has the properties of the claimed invention. See Office Action at page 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the cited references do not teach that which the Examiner suggests they do. The combination of the references in no way teaches the elements of the claimed invention.

The claimed invention is a sheet-form adhesive preparation in which the quantity of heat required for the evaporation of water when exposed for 30 minutes to an atmosphere of 25°C and 60%Rh is 0.6 to 13 (cal) per unit area (cm²). In rejected dependent claims, the sheet-form adhesive preparation according to claim 1 contains 1 to 50 wt% of a glycol and/or a polyhydric alcohol (claim 2); in claim 4, the polyhydric alcohol is a low molecular weight polyhydric alcohol having 2 to 3 hydroxyl groups in its molecular structure. Claims 6 and 8 appear to be rejected as dependent from a rejected claim.

Applicants assert that the claim limitations of claim 1 and claim 2 are not taught or suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants have reviewed the abstracts provided by the Examiner for the JP 57-206614 reference and the JP 61-260014 reference, but do not find any recitation of the elements of claim 1.

Moreover, the purpose of the preparations of the invention is clearly different than the prior art preparations. As noted in the specification at page 6, lines 22-25, "a larger amount of water can be released to the outside when the product is used. As a result, the skin is moisturized, the heat of vaporization is lost due to water diffusing to the outside...." This clearly indicates that water is released from the claimed preparations.

The JP 57-206614 reference teaches a poultice that has a water-insoluble, water-absorbing resin layer between two sheets of base cloth. Multiple layers of an anti-inflammatory analgesic composition and an adhesive material deposited on the base cloth. This combination is asserted to have anti-inflammatory analgesic activity and to provide a cool sensation for hours due to its high water retention (see last line of abstract). Thus, in contrast to the preparations of the claimed invention that release water, the preparation of the JP 57-206614 reference retains water.

The JP 61-260014 reference teaches a patch having "improved ... water retention characteristics" rather than a preparation that emphasizes the diffusion of water to the outside of the preparation.


Therefore, although both the claimed invention and the preparations of the cited references provide cooling sensations, the water retention characteristics differ greatly.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 made under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, which is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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